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LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 1991 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 20 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/23304), I should like to state the following:

1. In my letter of 17 December 1991 (S/23290), I set forth the relevant facts concerning the Iraqi police posts.

2. For its part, Kuwait, whose representative to the Organization lays claim to concern for commitment to the implementation of Security Council resolutions and for cooperation with the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), violated the provisions relating to the demilitarized zone when it altered the status quo in the zone by recently establishing 20 police posts, including 9 located less than 1,000 metres from the boundary line shown on the UNIKOM map, in an attempt to create a source of tension, friction and possible incidents. The locations of these nine posts in relation to the boundary line on the UNIKOM map are as follows:

(a) The Abdali post at coordinates 612320, 250 metres from the line;

(b) The Radkah post at coordinates 386315, 300 metres from the line;

(c) The Sakhriyat post at coordinates 447315, 400 metres from the line;

(d) The Umm Sadir post at coordinates 523317, 500 metres from the line;

(e) A post of unknown designation at coordinates 134243, 500 metres from the line;

(f) The Azimah post at coordinates 717278, 700 metres from the line;

(g) The Mazari' post at coordinates 649303, 700 metres from the line;

(h) The Khushan post at coordinates 187258, 800 metres from the line;

(i) A post of unknown designation at coordinates 762261, 800 metres from the line.

The truth of what we say is corroborated by the fact that, in the demilitarized zone, the Kuwaiti authorities committed 114 violations on land and another 86 in the air during the period 10 May-2 October 1991 alone, as stated in the Secretary-General's report on UNIKOM contained in document S/23106. This is in addition to the violations committed by the Kuwaiti side that were mentioned by the Secretary-General in his weekly reports on UNIKOM for the periods 25 November-1 December 1991, 2-8 December 1991, 9-15 December 1991 and 16-22 December 1991 and which clearly demonstrate the extent to which the Government of Kuwait is persisting in its disregard of Security Council resolutions and reports of the Secretary-General as well as its failure to accommodate itself to UNIKOM.

The claim made by the representative of Kuwait that there are Iraqi police posts inside Kuwaiti territory is groundless. His Government's demand for what he terms the "immediate dismantling" of Iraqi police posts is premature, inasmuch as the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission has, of course, yet to complete its work and it is presumed that it is the Commission which will establish the location of the boundary line between the two countries. Only then will it be determined what is Kuwaiti territory and what is Iraqi territory.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sabah Talat KADRAT
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.